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SC-07995/65-a

11 June 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, National Estimates

SUBJECT: ONS Target Study on North Vietnam

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1. In response to your request to me on 8 June and [redacted] request [redacted] on the same day, ONS has prepared for ONS's use a target study of North Vietnam, copies of which are attached.

2. This study points out that the Viet Cong military effort is not particularly dependant upon the North Vietnamese economy for equipment and supplies. Nevertheless, it does describe targets for neutralizing key industrial, transport, and military installations in that country.

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3. In response to [redacted] stated interest in the possibility of flooding the delta area, I call your attention particularly to Annex 3 in which the subject is described at some length. Although no study was made of the operational feasibility of breaching the levees, they are high and broad (generally 25 feet high, but in the Hanoi area as high as 43 feet; 23 feet wide at the top and from 65 to 130 feet wide at the base) and it would seem that successful breaching at several points with conventional bombs would be an extremely difficult task.

4. We have a large briefing board on the Red River Delta available upon request. It has profiles, maps, and data on population, construction of levees, and other useful information.

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[redacted]  
OTTO E. GUTHE  
Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: ADD/I (w/copy # 4)

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